MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: That is a difficult question to answer because wages are given in kind as well as in coins and will depend upon the particular locality and upon the nature of the work.

PRESIDENT: It depends upon the persuasive power of the local Committees.

Shortage of small coins.

8. *MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM: Will the Government be pleased to state what arrangements, if any, they have made to meet the present shortage of small coins in the State?

MR. A. LAKSHMINARAYANA AYYAR (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Arrangements have been made for getting down copper blanks, manufactured at Bombay. Meanwhile with a view to relieve the situation to the extent possible, local manufacture of copper blanks and minting of coins have also been undertaken and the coins newly minted are being issued from 25-5-1118. A supply of Rs. 2 1/2 lakhs worth of fanams was obtained from the Bombay Mint in December 1942. Steps are also being taken to obtain a further supply of half rupees and fanams.

MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM: May I know what is the value of coins minted?

MR. A. LAKSHMINARAYANA AYYAR: About Rs. 2,000 worth.

MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM: May I know whether any coins are being sent to the northern parts of Travancore.

MR. A. LAKSHMINARAYANA AYYAR: They will be sent shortly.

Scarcity of copper coins.

9. *MR. P. NARAYANA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether hardship is experienced by the ordinary people for want of copper and other coins of smaller denominations; and

(*b*) whether any action has been taken on the same?

MR. A. LAKSHMINARAYANA AYYAR: (*a*) Government are aware that some inconvenience is being experienced for want of small coins.

(*b*) The honourable member's attention is invited to the Press *Communique, dated 11-1-1943/27-5-1118, a copy of which is placed on the table.

Scarcity of small coins.

10. *MR. K. KUNJU PANICKAR: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the transactions of the people of the State are considerably handicapped on account of the scarcity of small coins;

(*b*) whether they have taken any steps to remove this hardship; and

(*c*) the price of silver and copper per tola now?

MR. A. LAKSHMINARAYANA AYYAR: (*a*) & (*b*) The honourable member is referred to the answer furnished to Interpellation No. 9.

(*c*) The latest price of silver and copper is about Re. 1 and pies. 4 respectively per tola at the retail rate.

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*Vide Appendix at page 31.

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